

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Between 1945 and 1949 the field of medicine in Hungary was in a state of flux because of Communist encroachment upon the universities and medical centers. It appeared [] that by 1949 at least 15% of the pre-war physicians were thrown out, with approximately 85% remaining at the universities, the hospitals and the health centers. The process of elimination was not rapid but began slowly and gained momentum during the winter of 1947, particularly after official and accredited US and UK personnel left Hungary. In the early years of Soviet occupation they didn't penetrate very deeply into the social institutions, particularly medicine. They merely scratched the surface. However, from the very beginning, the Soviets saw to it that key Communist personnel were placed in the more important administrative medical positions.
2. A number of Jewish physicians who came to Budapest with the USSR forces were placed in key positions. The top man among this group was Dr. Emil Weil MD who appeared to be the final authority in assigning the aforementioned individuals to medical positions in the "Hungarian Peoples Republic". []
[] In the company of Dr. Weil were several top flight Communists, among whom were the following:
- A. Mrs. Zoltan Vas, now [1954] referred to as Mrs. Sari, was placed in the Public Health Department where, from the very beginning, she has been a leading exponent of Communism, not only in the Public Health Department, but in medicine throughout Hungary.

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-2-

B. Dr. Vekac Braun, previously Igac, and Dr. Josef Vikol were all medical doctors and pre-World War II Hungarian Communists. 50X1-HUM

C. Dr. Stefan Rusznay, professor MD was made chairman of the Soviet-Hungarian Scientific Society.

[The above personalities today February 1954] control to a great degree Hungarian medicine and medical research.

Historical data

3. In either 1924 or 1925 Professor Johan Bela MD entered the US under a Ford Fellowship and took post doctoral work at a leading US university. Dr. Bela was a well known medical man for he served as the last chairman of the League of Nations Public Health Commission and as Hungarian Secretary of State for Public Health. When Dr. Bela completed his US studies, he left for Hungary with a deep respect for US medicine and medical practices. Due to his influence a number of Hungarian physicians accepted Ford scholarships, came to the US where they studied and learned US medical methodology and practices. They, of course, introduced US methods in research and medicine when they returned to Hungary.
4. The level of research in pre-World War II Hungary compared favorably with that of the US and the UK. Hungarian doctors, particularly surgeons, appeared to be on a par with US and UK counterparts. It must be borne in mind, however, that [] never had sufficient funds to procure facilities for research and medical equipment on the scale of the US and the UK physicians. Consequently, [] sometimes lagged a little, but eventually were able to catch up. 50X1-HUM
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5. With reference to the shortages mentioned above []
 - A. Ultra microscopes were lacking; in fact, [] there are none in Hungary now [] 50X1-HUM
 - B. [] there was only one electron microscope in the country [1949]. This microscope was in use at the University of Budapest. 50X1-HUM
 - C. Tiselius electrophoretic apparatus - there was none.
 - D. Ultracentrifuge - [] some, but not in sufficient quantity.
 - E. Warburg Manometers - [] several, but not a sufficient number. 50X1-HUM
 - F. Freeze-drying equipment was available, but only at the University of Budapest and not in adequate numbers.
 - G. Deep-culture vats - [] at all of the universities [] 50X1-HUM
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 - H. Phase microscopes - [] none.
6. The more prominent Hungarian medical men in 1940 were:
 - A. Professor Albert de Szent Györgyi MD is now [1954] about 63 or 64 years of age. He was awarded the Nobel prize for biological oxidation and research in Vitamin C. 50X1-HUM

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- 3 -

- B. Professor Johan Bela MD is [redacted] working in pharmacology at the Phyloxia Institute in Budapest. [redacted] When the Communists began to take over the control of medicine in Hungary in 1945, Professor Bela refused to go along with them. He was subsequently discharged from his position as Secretary of Public Health. Due perhaps to his capabilities, he was assigned to the Phyloxia Institute. [redacted]

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- C. Professor Issekutz Bela MD had an outstanding reputation in central Europe in the field of pharmacology. He has published several texts and articles for journals in that field. Bela [redacted] is teaching at the University of Budapest.

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- D. Professor George Gortway MD, professor at the University of Budapest [redacted] was famous for his research in industrial and public health. He is currently in Budapest [redacted]

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- E. Professor Stefan Went, who once did postgraduate work in the US [redacted] was prominent in the field of biology. Went is [redacted] medical professor at the University of Debrecen.

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F. [redacted]

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- G. Josef Tomcik was prominent in the fields of bacteriology and environment. He also studied in the US [redacted] He is [redacted] a professor of medicine [redacted]

H. [redacted]

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- I. Prior to World War II there were four medical colleges in Hungary. They were located at Budapest, Debrecen, Pecs and at Szeged. Each of these universities was well staffed personnel wise. From 30 to 40 professors, all MD's, were on the staffs of each of these universities. Among the faculty members of each school were several outstanding men [redacted]

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[redacted] In reference to the educational background of the aforementioned scientists, they all took their degrees at Hungarian medical schools. Most of them took their post doctoral research and study in the US under various US subsidies.

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- J. Their accomplishments were by and large accepted internationally [redacted]

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Present Trends in Research

7. The majority of Hungarian medical professors engaged in national research up to 1945 were intelligent, sincere and religious men. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Hungarian medical situation was in a state of disorganization, this included research as well.

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- 4 -

8. The professors engaged in research in 1945 were under the constant scrutiny of secret police who even attended lectures given by the professors. From 1945 to 1948 the Soviets engaged in imposing their own doctors and research specialists. (Approximately 10% of the medical personnel during these years were from the USSR -- Russian speaking specialists.) By 1948 Communist Party influence in all fields of science was very much in evidence throughout Hungary.
9. The leading exponents of Communism in medicine from 1948 to the present were Professor Rusznyak, Mrs. Vas [Sari], Bakacs Braun MD, Dr. Emil Weil, Dr. Petenyi and Dr. Koloman Stol. Dr. Stol served as the liaison officer between the Soviet Army (then in Hungary) and Hungarian medical institutions. All of the above were educated in Hungary with the exception of Mrs. Vas [Sari]. She received all of her education in the Soviet Union and was purported to possess a Soviet medical diploma.
10. [redacted] Soviet or Soviet inspired professors in Hungary control, guide and supervise research within the country [redacted] Among these is, of course, Professor Stefan Rusznyak who is often found visiting Moscow. A number of Hungarian physicians and scientific personnel have been sent from time to time to the Soviet Union where they have engaged in teaching and research. This practice began in 1945 and continues to the present day [redacted] As a result, any important discoveries or contributions would be reported from the USSR and lauded as Soviet accomplishments. The old-line professors from Hungary, in most cases, refused to travel to the USSR. Those who do take such journeys are either middle-aged or younger men.
11. The last time that Hungarian professors visited the US and returned to Hungary was in 1949. These professors, of course, returned to Hungary with latest US developments in various fields of research such as physiology, bio-chemistry and microbiology. In addition to this information they also purchased and transmitted to Hungary large numbers of texts dealing with each field.

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Organization and Administration of Medical Research

13. To say that research in Hungary is government controlled doesn't necessarily follow. It is Communist controlled and as such is directed by the Communist organization called Health "Kader". The "Kader" is staffed with men of little qualification for research. Under its guidance, people who are favorable to the new government and accepted by the Communist Party are engaged in research projects. [redacted] these men are inept. They may have a general idea of research, but are unable to fulfill in detail research projects. To say that extensive research is carried out in Hungary is not true. The more eminent German and Hungarian doctors engaged in research do not work in Hungary but in the USSR.

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50X1-HUMResearch Facilities

14. The independent (pre World War II) research programs and individual research institutions of Hungary are [redacted] under direct control and jurisdiction of Communist leaders and directors. Two Hungarian Communists, perhaps the most influential in shaping the medical research programs and determining scientific policies are Dr. Emil Weil and Professor Stefan Rusznyak. All Hungarian research institutions feel their impact. The Minister of Public Welfare, the Minister of Public Health and the Ministry of Education (which authorizes and approves the university research programs) all must obtain sanction and approval for projected research from the two previously mentioned individuals.

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- 5 -

15. Dr. Weil and Professor Ruzsnyak are key personnel in the Communist "Kader" [Communist Scientific Headquarters]. Outwardly it appears that with all the influence wielded by these two men, the "Kader" coordinates very closely scientific activity with the wishes of the Kremlin. This "Kader" has taken over the National Research Council and the National Academy of Science. These two institutions exist, but in name only, for their powers and functions have been usurped by the "Kader".

16. Orszagos/Kozegeszsegugyi/Intezet [National Public Health Institute] is often referred to as OKI. It is located in Budapest on Gyali Street no. 4. [redacted] it operates under directions from the Communist "Kader". OKI conducts research in numerous channels; it doesn't specialize in one or two fields. The Public Health Institute has a number of functioning branches or sections. These are:

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- A. The Nursing School
- B. Department of Nutrition
- C. Communicable Diseases
- D. Public Health Education
- E. Public Health Engineers

The official director of OKI [redacted] is Dr. George Gortvay. He was a former professor at the University of Budapest. [redacted] Gortvay engaged in considerable research in industrial public health. [redacted]

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His subordinates at OKI are: (1) Dr. Josef Vikol is the Minister of Health for OKI. Prior to this public health position, Vikol was a captain in the Hungarian Army, active in military medicine. When the USSR Army first entered Budapest and set up its post-war government, Vikol was placed in his present position. [redacted]

(2) Dr. Scheff Dabis Laslo [Ladislav] [redacted] (3) Dr. Farago (last name not recalled). professor [redacted]

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17. Szekisfovarosi Kozegeszsegugyi Intezet [Szekisfovarosi City Public Health Institute].

18. Eotvos Lorant Rok-Kutato Intezet [Cancer Research Institute] is located in Szekisfovarosi [street not recalled].

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19. Eotvos Lorant Rok Kutato Intezet [Cancer Research Institute], Bakaos Street no. 12, Budapest, Hungary.

20. Budapest Kozegeszsegugyi Intezet [Budapest Public Health Institute]. This institution confines its research to problems pertinent only to the health of Budapest proper. Dr. Julius Vilmon is [redacted] the director of the above institute. [redacted] The Chief of Public Health in Budapest and perhaps subservient to Dr. Vilmon is Dr. Ignac Bakacs. his last name used to be Braun. [redacted]

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Dr. Bakacs is a Dr. (fnu) Borna. [redacted] The assistant to Influential Medical Personalities

21. Dr. Emil Weil, former Ambassador to the US [redacted]

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[redacted] Chief of the Communist Physicians' Labor Union of Hungary. Emil Weil has perhaps the most formidable position in the entire medical setup in Hungary. He determines where and when medical personnel will be assigned, whether

CONFIDENTIAL

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- 6 -

or not they should be sent to labor camps, or for that matter, what should be done with those considered disloyal.

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22. Wielding power on a level with Dr. Emil Weil and Professor Stefan Ruzsnyak in Hungarian medical science (which includes medicine, public health, physicians, drug concerns, etc.) is Mrs. Vas, also known as Mrs. Sari. This woman [redacted] handles Communist medical interests throughout the entire country. She also has the power to discharge personnel, to handle and manipulate matters as she deems necessary to the interests of the Communist Party in Hungary.
23. The Public Health Counsel for Hungary is Dr. Petenyi. He was once assistant professor of medicine at the University of Budapest.
24. The President of the Soviet Hungarian Scientific Society is Dr. Stefan Ruzsnyak. Prior to this position he was professor of internal medicine at the University at Szeged. Ruzsnyak [redacted] spends approximately one month of every six in the Soviet Union. Ruzsnyak, as Director, is in charge of all scientific research conducted throughout Hungary.
- [redacted]

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Personnel Potential

25.

[redacted] the training is prodigious, is intensive, and most exacting even though the projects are sponsored and directed by Communists. It must be remembered that a number of the capable professors are at present teaching in these universities. Many of these people are doctors of medicine. Relative to the caliber of this personnel [redacted] 50% [redacted] better than average by reputation and experience. The remaining 50% are [redacted] inept and unqualified (a situation which stems from political patronage and political philosophy).

[redacted]

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Facilities

26. Research facilities, research institutions and the large plants such as Chinoin, Vistod, Richter, Phylloxia, Bayer and Isenti have all fallen victims to nationalization. No longer are they privately owned, no longer do they pursue independent and objective research. The laboratories of all these institutions, in addition to the various national foundations, have lost their independent and individually private identities. [redacted] several of the above plants were damaged during World War II, but by 1950 all were totally repaired and physically capable of 100% production. [redacted] in mid 1949, funds for projects deemed vital to the New Hungarian State were always available through "Kader".
27. At the end of World War II quantities of medical equipment and laboratory machines were transferred from Hungary to Austria with some of this equipment being shipped to Argentina. [redacted] some of it is still in Austria, but much had been returned to Hungary to the Communists.
28. Ultracentrifuge, Warburg manometers, freeze-drying equipment and deep culture vats were in existence in Hungary in 1950 [see paragraph 5 above]. It must be remembered that although the amounts seem inadequate [redacted] they were sufficient for the needs of Hungary which [redacted] has less than 10 million people. Most research equipment was domestically manufactured. There was some import from Jena,

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- 7 -

East Germany and from Siemensstadt Berlin, USSR Zone. Such imports were comprised of small precision instruments such as microscopes.

29. All of the facilities which Dr. Johan Bela built up and developed prior to Communist control are still in existence throughout the various health centers in Hungary. By and large, the personnel employed at the Public Health Institute have had medical training.

Production

30. Chemicals, media, dyes, glassware, light microscopes, X-ray film, medical instruments, and similar apparatus were locally manufactured in quantities parallel to the needs of Hungary. [redacted] It turns out most of the slides, X-ray film and cameras utilized in Hungarian research.

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31. Up to mid-1949, an interchange of ideas as to medical equipment and types existed between Hungary [redacted]

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32. Experts were made to the Middle East, to [redacted] Manufactured items sent to these countries consisted of X-ray tubes, electric bulbs and radio tubes. Drugs shipped to [redacted] were Filix-maris and its components (manufactured at Chinoïn) and hormones which were manufactured at Richter.

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34. The source of patients for clinical research, that is at the hospitals and out-patient clinics, is composed by and large of social security patients. Practically all of the postwar employees, professional and non-professional, are covered under the New State Socialized Medical Program. [redacted] it is 100% socialized medicine.

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Prevalent Medical Problems

35. There is a potential for real accomplishment under the present medical setup in Hungary. It could devote its efforts to eliminating existing ailments. The following need attention: (1) TB, (2) venereal disease, the usual types (gonorrhea and syphilis) which were spread by the Soviet forces among the Hungarian population, (3) undernourishment -- primarily the lack of proteins which in general affects the physical being of a majority of the Hungarian population -- it is weak and debilitated, (4) lack of vitamins (a dire need). This has brought about a widespread condition of tooth decay and rickets. An adverse effect due to the lack of vitamins and proteins can best be described by the fact that Hungarian workers are unable to fulfill the norms that are set up by the New State, (that is the Communist state). Stakhanovites, in particular, are affected because in this realm of Soviet and socialized endeavor such individuals must be 100% physically fit. The conditions as described above are perhaps at their worst in the forced labor camps. Within such camps [redacted] there are at least 300 thousand Hungarian citizens, the bulk of them representative of the middle class of that country.

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Potential for Research

36. Should the new state decide to step up Hungarian research, lack of personnel should not prove a bar; for when the Soviets entered Hungary they card indexed all scientists and research workers according to their abilities and specialties. However [redacted] the USSR is not interested in the welfare of the total population of Hungary, but will direct such research as it deems necessary to fulfill its own requirements.

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- 8 -

Publication of Scientific Papers and Norm Requirements

37. Prior to World War II it was difficult to have scientific papers published for the simple reason that such scientific papers and research results were critically scrutinized by competent people at the universities and scientific organizations throughout the country. Such offerings were checked by experts who passed upon their merits. This is not the case in present day Hungary for the Soviet program appears to be interested only in numbers (production) rather than quality. Therefore, it designates and assigns projects to its personnel without due consideration for the quality of the finished product. Quality is not necessarily the essential point. The end in view is mass production and fulfilling the norm requirements. Proposed research programs are those selected by the new Hungarian state and devised primarily to meet the needs and requirements of the Party and its personnel.
38. Research projects are always set up under the five-year plan, similar to that practiced in the Soviet Union. [redacted]

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Library Facilities

39. When the Soviet occupation forces first arrived in Hungary and manipulated control over the universities, they were keenly interested in the library facilities of the country. Immediately after they had taken over the libraries, there was a mass burning of texts and scientific journals, periodicals, etc, primarily those which had not been written or developed by the personnel who were placed in key positions by the Soviets. After they had destroyed texts and documents, the various university professors in the field of medicine were quite concerned because of the lack of source material. Consequently the professors, even the Communists, searched throughout the various university towns for such texts. In most instances, what texts were obtained were collected from private sources. The setup today is such that all scientific writings, no matter whether they be periodicals, journals, texts, etc., are acquired directly through the offices of Professor Stefan Rusznyak.
40. The average professor can procure only the following scientific writings: (1) those of USSR origin, (2) East German origin, (3) [redacted] origin, (4) other satellite countries. The USSR writings used as source material contain short resumes lifted from publications from other parts of the world (from those fields of scientific research which are of manifest interest to the Soviet Union). Such extractions are translated into Hungarian. [redacted] each research facility had its own library.
41. Scientists definitely do not have ready access to medical literature from foreign countries (other than the Eastern orbit). In order to avail themselves of foreign medical publications, they must contact Dr. Rusznyak and Dr. Petyi who control such publications. Publications from the US and the Western powers are not available. This is so because Rusznyak controls the release of such publications. For political reasons, he does not release such works to scientific personnel. Provision for translation of foreign documents is effected through the office of Dr. Rusznyak.
42. With reference to foreign journals which are read by scientists, the majority [redacted] are USSR, East German, [redacted] and the [redacted] satellite countries. [redacted] journals are [redacted] censored by the offices of Dr. Rusznyak.

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Hungarian Medical Literature

43. Scientific medical literature published and available in Hungary is as follows:

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50X1-HUM

- 9 -

- A. Orvos Szakszervozt Kozloly [Physicians' Trade Union Magazine]
- B. Orvosi Hetilap [Physicians' Weekly Newspaper]
- C. Orvos Kepzes [Physicians' Post Graduate Education Magazine]

Textbooks written in native Hungarian are of good quality. [redacted]

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- A. Gyogyszerek es Gyogitas, Volumes I and II, written by Dr. Issekutz Bela, published in Budapest in 1948.
- B. A Stomaetologia Tankonyve written by Dr. Balogh Karoly, published in 1948.

Foreign Influence in Hungarian Research

44. Foreign influence most prominent in Hungary in the past with reference to medicine and medical education was perhaps about equal with German and US predominant. As previously mentioned, large numbers of Hungarian medical men did both postgraduate work and research in the US under various scholarships and grants. On the other hand, goodly numbers of Americans availed themselves of both undergraduate and graduate medical education in Hungary, primarily at the University of Budapest and at all of the large hospitals.

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[redacted] USSR influence today is obvious. Approximately 10% of the medical personnel are from the USSR. Influence since the end of World War II is obviously Soviet. Researchers are not even allowed relative freedom in their choice of the methods to the approach of a problem. Such activity is governed by Professor Ruzsnyak, the individual mentioned throughout this report. [redacted] he coordinates very closely with the Kremlin as to the leeway which he will permit to research personnel. [redacted] The framework is pretty much the same throughout the other Soviet satellites. It all comes from the same pot.

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45. Freedom of correspondence with foreign scientists is restricted. Correspondence with foreign scientists up until mid-winter 1947 (when the Hungarian treaty was signed and the US and UK delegations withdrawn) there was considerable freedom. However, after these two nations' representatives left Hungary, an appreciable tightening began. It was done in gradual steps. Although some correspondence was permitted for a time with Westerners, by mid-1946 a total tightening up concerning correspondence with foreign scientists took place. The first rough step, [redacted] was Christmas eve 1947 with the Communist imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty. Shortly thereafter the curtain was drawn tighter. It was effected by various Communist personalities in Hungary who sought reprisal against those scientists whom they had occasion to dislike.

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Travel Restrictions

46. Physicians and research personnel are not allowed to attend international conferences and meetings in the Western zones, only in the East and the satellites. [redacted] only scientists whose background is such that it is compatible to the interests of the Communist Party and to the Soviet Union, can enter Hungary. In case an innocent scientist interested only in scientific research work should apply for an entree into Hungary, his background was closely scrutinized. If he were from one of the Western countries, you could almost wager that he was sympathetic to Communism. [redacted] it is practically an impossibility for a scientist from the West to get into Hungary or any of the Eastern countries. The scientists in the Eastern zones, in Hungary in particular, realize full well that it would be very dangerous for them to in any way affiliate with or express an interest in scientists from the West.

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Salaries

47. Salaries are absolutely not adequate. The monthly salaries [redacted] are from 800 to 1200 florins. In US currency this means a salary of from \$25 to \$37 per month.

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Education and Training

- 10 -

48. Universities concerned with medical training and education in Hungary are Szeged, Budapest, Debrecen and Pecs. The facilities are the same at all of these colleges. In 1948 the system and pattern of education in Hungary was changed. The German methods and techniques were abolished and the French system instituted. The number of medical students who graduate each year at universities of Hungary is as follows:

From Budapest	about 300
From Szeged	120
From Debrecen	100-120
From Pecs	120

The general level of medical instruction in the universities should be good because a number of the old-line professors primarily interested in medicine and not Communism, are still retained on the staffs.

49.

Practices existent prior to World War II continue. The professors lecture part time and also engage in research. [redacted] the training and research given to undergraduate students in the Hungarian medical colleges is quite similar to that in the US. Techniques in research are included in the undergraduate curriculum of a medical student. Research facilities are not as elaborate nor as extensive as in the US. Consequently, the laboratories, etc. are more crowded and students are of course slowed down by virtue of insufficient equipment.

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50. By and large, the students who enter the medical colleges are drawn from the working class. The primary requisite for entrance is based on what the Communist state considers a clean political background. Checking is done, not only of the student during his previous educational years, but of his family as well. The students who enter the university are given state scholarships which range from 300 to 400 florins per month. That is approximately US\$10 per month.

Medical Training

51. During the fall semester of 1953 over 1200 medical students made application at the University of Budapest. 200 were admitted. It takes six years to complete a medical education. The first two years are referred to as the College. The last four years are called the University (School of Medicine). When the student enters the University he begins his study of medicine. Within the last year of such education, the student is required to spend several months at various university clinics garnering practical experience in surgery and the various techniques required of the medical man. Upon the completion of such practical experience, he returns to the university where he undergoes examinations. If these examinations are successfully completed, he is then given the degree Doctor of Medicine. Actually, the last year can be compared to the internship [redacted] in the US [redacted].

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As can be seen, this is incorporated into the curriculum of the medical colleges. The medical students are required by law to spend two months with the military each year. During these two months such students are expected to learn the practical application of military medicine.

52. Medical students are required to study the Russian language each year and are subsequently [each year] required to pass successfully examinations in the Russian language. New subjects introduced under the New State are studies in Leninism, Marxism and Stalinism—the necessary political indoctrination.

[redacted] the scientific level (particularly in the medical field) in Hungary as compared to the satellites, did not drop as much after World War II.

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53. With reference to postgraduate work in postwar Hungary, [redacted] the courses are merely routine courses and the setup as it exists now is temporary. The percentage of students who take postgraduate training in Hungary is entirely [redacted].

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